

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### 'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Hear Me Now
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Peek Into the Program 2

A Peek into the Classroom 3

Teen Night 4

RDI Parent Program 4

Amazon Smile 5

Honeywell 5

Upcoming Events 6

A very special thank you to the Giving Hope Network for their very generous donation of \$6,000 for iPad instructional and communication apps as a part of the *Hear Me Now* project!

In the next few months they will also be donating 10 iPads to our speech and language department!

*Hear Me Now* is a major project of Giving Hope Network. The *Hear Me Now* project is an effort to assist people who suffer from ASD (autism spectrum disorders), especially young children.

*Hear Me Now* fosters collaboration among organizations (e.g., schools), as well as businesses and parents/individuals who share our goals. By working with schools, we seek synergistic developments of best practices so that their students with ASD can eventually find jobs that utilize their individual skills.

At present, the Giving Hope Network is intensely focused on emerging evidence that iPad use greatly enhances communication skills and learning ability—hence quality of life—of people with ASD. To learn more about the Giving Hope Network, please visit their website, [www.givingopenetwork.org](http://www.givingopenetwork.org)



## A PEEK INTO THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

BY: WENDY BEFFERT

Most of November was dedicated to soccer. We worked on dribbling, kicking into the goal, teamwork, good sportsmanship and making a connection with a partner before passing the ball. In addition to these skills, secondary students learned about game strategy and rules. Right before the holiday break we did recreation activities. Students were able to choose from ping-pong, magnetic darts, bowling, shooting hoops, jumping rope, hula hooping or having a game of catch with a friend.

Thanks to our amazing PTO we now have two basketball hoops that everyone is enjoying! This month our secondary students are brushing up on their basketball skills in preparation for the Phoenix center game (date and time TBA). Students are either learning or improving on their dribbling, passing, pivoting, shooting and running skills through various drill games, partner exercises and team games.

Collectively, all P.E activities help promote regulation, good motor planning, eye-hand coordination, eye-foot coordination, balance, focus, visual-spatial acuity, agility, flexibility and self-esteem.



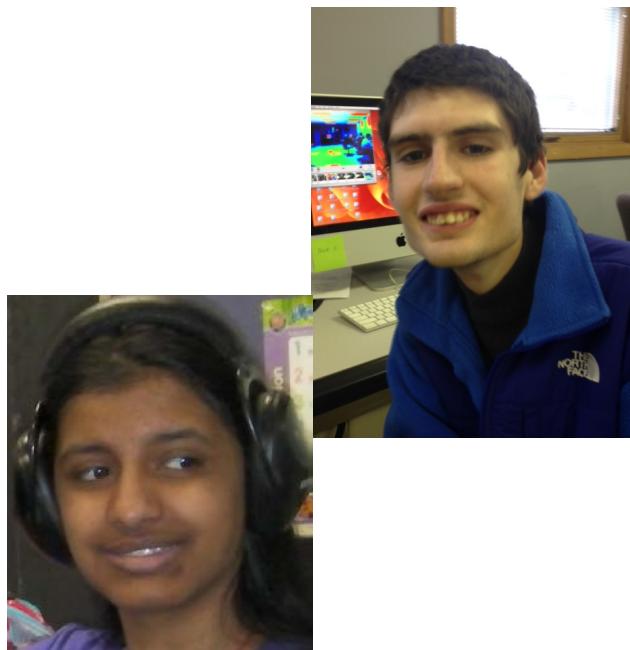
## A PEEK INTO THE FACILITATED COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

It has been an exciting time in the FC department. A few of our students have submitted their writing to be considered for inclusion in a book titled "Typed Words, Loud Voices". You can read more about the book project at [typedwordsloudvoices.blogspot.com](http://typedwordsloudvoices.blogspot.com).

I am excited to announce that two of our student submissions have been accepted and will be published in the book! Keir and Sagarika should be congratulated on this accomplishment and be proud of their hard work!!

We look forward to seeing their words in print along with the words of many other individuals who type to communicate from around the world.

Congratulations Keir and Sagarika on having your messages shared with the world!!



## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM AMY'S CLASS



This week we spent an entire afternoon canning pickles. This activity is part of our small business that we developed during Life Skills class. All students worked together to develop a company name, logo and slogan. Together we also researched recipes and made a test batch. After the test batch was complete, we gave samples out around the building and completed a needs assessment. Almost everyone who tasted our classroom pickles agreed that they would buy a jar! Creating this small business has been a lot of fun for all students and staff. It has also helped strengthen our social and life skills. Students needed to work together towards a common goal. We hope to sell the jars in order to raise money for a classroom trip at the end of the school year. Specific details about the company can't be released yet, but please keep your eye out for homemade pickles in the near future.



## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM TIFFANY'S CLASS



Ms. Tiffany's Class has been working hard in Language Arts. We recently read a book called, "I Need My Monster" by: Amanda Noll. The students loved the book and had a lot of fun with it. We used the book to start learning about adjectives, and how to label things. Each student wrote up a few adjectives about a made up monster and then drew that monster. They then traded their adjectives with a peer and their peer then drew the monster. It was fun to see how similar and different the monster drawings were.

We also did various learning centers that worked around our Monster theme. There was a patterning center, an adjective center, a center where the students wrote out the main ideas, character and themes about the story, and also a center that had a bunch of monster sentences the students had to add the correct punctuation too.



All our monster work was put outside our classroom on our bulletin board, which the students are very proud to display!

## TEEN NIGHT OFFERED THROUGH MOUNT OLIVE SENIOR CENTER

### Teen Night Out!

A night out for Middle School and High School teens in grades 6-12. Dance your feet off and enjoy some fun games. It's a perfect time to socialize with peers, have a snack, and most of all, have fun!

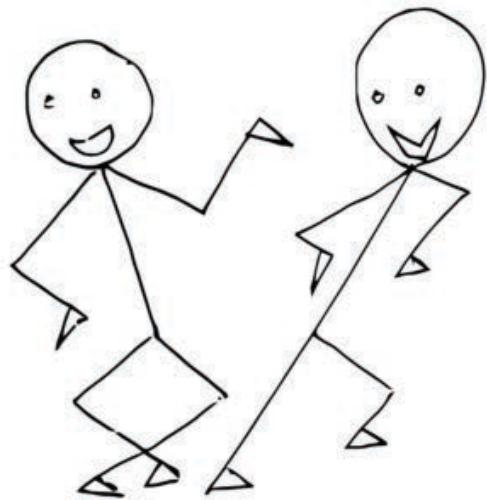
Dates: Saturdays **1/24, 2/21, 3/21**

Time: 7-9 pm

Cost: \$5 per teen

Location: Mt. Olive Senior Center

For more information or to register, please  
email [kellya@peakgroup.org](mailto:kellya@peakgroup.org)



## RDI PARENT TRAINING

RDI and DIR have the same goal of addressing developmental goals and objectives for students. RDI was designed as a parent based intervention. RDI has hundreds of very specific, systematic, developmental goals that fit nicely within DIR's developmental levels. The main difference you will likely see and feel, initially is that RDI begins with a more structured, parent or guide led approach. Our goal in RDI is to create opportunities for the child to become regulated through co-regulating with a parent or guide.

Once the child is able to actively and competently engage in the back and forth set up by the parent or guide, more responsibility is transferred to the child to maintain that coordinated activity. Aside from the initial way an RDI activity is set up, it is often difficult to discriminate between RDI and DIR once an activity is in motion.

For more information on RDI, visit [www.rdiconnect.com](http://www.rdiconnect.com)

*Contact Laura Hynes to register  
Or for more information*

*LHynes@celebratethechildren.org  
973-989-4033 ext 424*



**Wednesdays 12:00-1:30  
January 14<sup>th</sup>- February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Fridays 11:30-1:00  
January 16<sup>th</sup>-February 6th**



## AMAZON SMILE

Did you know, Celebrate the Children could benefit from your Amazon.com shopping?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

That's right! If you visit smile.amazon.com, you can select Celebrate the Children as your charity organization to support, and that's it! Simple as that! Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Celebrate the Children. You shop, Amazon gives!

## SCHOOL DELAYS, EARLY DISMISSELS OR CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER!

With winter fast approaching, please take a moment to review how our school communicates school delays, early dismissals or closings due to inclement weather.

When a decision is made, it is immediately communicated to parents, transportation and staff via our Honeywell Instant Alert System. It is also announced on our school main telephone line through Option #7 and published on our CTC Facebook page.

It is always a good idea for members of our school community to login to our Honeywell system and double-check all settings. While reviewing your profile, please be sure to select that you would like to receive alerts from "midnight to midnight".

It is important to select "midnight to midnight" as this will ensure you will receive all alerts including those that are sent in the early morning hours. If you choose a certain time frame you may miss those alerts that are sent outside your preferred time frame.

### **How to Update Your Instant Alert Settings**

Please follow the instructions below to log in to your Honeywell account and make any necessary changes. For your convenience, we have also added the Honeywell website link directly on our school website, [www.celebratethechildren.org](http://www.celebratethechildren.org).

Log on to: Honeywell Instant Alert Website: <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>

- Enter the user name and password that you created when you registered. If you have forgotten either your user name or password, you will be prompted to enter some additional information and your user name and/or password will be sent immediately to your email account. If you have not yet created an account, you can do so by clicking New User/Sign Up (Parent).
- Click on 'Alert Setup.'
- Check (or un-check) the boxes to select which alert type you would like to have sent to which device. Click on 'Save' when complete.
- For e-mail, text messaging and pagers you may send yourself a test message. Click on 'Send Test Message' to send yourself a message.
- Please review all personal information to make sure home/cell phone numbers and email addresses are up to date.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Katie at Ext. 150.

## WHY ARE WE USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND WHY SHOULD YOU FOLLOW US?

Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States and now affects 1 in 50 children. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, Diabetes and Cancer combined.

We are at an important time in the field of special needs intervention as many people are beginning to recognize the need for approaches that look at the overall development of a child and target areas such as abstract thinking, problem solving, independence, self-esteem, emotions, language, and social interactions in a natural and supportive setting. At this time, the demand for this type of intervention is much greater than what clinicians and educators are able to supply. Therefore, it is crucial that we share the amazing programs we have to offer and the "how to" with others.

To fulfill our mission, we need your help and ask you to participate with us in the development of work, in the sharing and building of materials, and in the structure and growth of our organizations: Celebrate the Children and Profectum. Like us on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter and spread awareness of progressive programs that support families and help individuals reach their highest potential and find success in society.

Please share our pages and posts with your family and friends! ☺

## REMINDERS

**Progress Reports are NOW AVAILABLE on the Realtime Parent Portal!**

December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Early Dismissal

December 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>  
Holiday Recess  
School Closed

January 1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Holiday Recess  
School Closed

January 14<sup>th</sup>-February 4<sup>th</sup>  
RDI Parent Trainings  
12:00-1:30

January 16<sup>th</sup>-February 6<sup>th</sup>  
RDI Parent Trainings  
11:30-1:00

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Luther King Day  
School Closed

January 24<sup>th</sup>  
Teen Night  
Mount Olive Senior Center  
7:00pm

February 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
Winter Recess  
School Closed

March 5<sup>th</sup>  
Speaker Series  
SCARC Guardianship Services  
7:00pm  
CTC

March 27<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Benefit  
SAVE THE DATE!

June 11<sup>th</sup>  
Speaker Series  
Transportation  
7:00pm  
CTC



*Celebrate the Children*

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033

[www.celebratethechildren.org](http://www.celebratethechildren.org)